



WISER: The Highest Outcomes for the Hardest to Reach Girls

The Menstrual Hygiene Management Challenge

Globally, girls have lower access to education due to lack of menstrual hygiene products and clean water to wash. For poor families, helping their daughters manage menstruation can take a backseat to light, food, housing, or even educating their sons. Girls often choose between unsanitary methods to manage their menstrual health, which can increase the risk of infection and HIV, or staying home from school, remaining uneducated and poor. Some girls trade sex for money to buy pads, which in Muhuru Bay greatly increases their risk of HIV infection.

The Opportunity

WISER in Muhuru Bay, Kenya provides free menstrual hygiene products, as well as comprehensive healthcare services. WISER also has an expansive sexual and reproductive health curriculum that includes non-stigmatizing discussions of menstrual health. At WISER, girls have both the tools to manage their monthly cycles and an environment that normalizes conversations about them. WISER also provides choices in how girls manage their menstrual health, including reusable pads and menstrual cups, as well as clean water and privacy.

Potential Long-Term Impact

240 WISER girls will be in the classroom getting an education and a subsequent job that can get them and their families out of poverty. Girls in the wider community will be provided with sexual and reproductive health education. Hygienic menstrual management reduces the risk of infections and urogenital damage. The reduction in the need for transactional sex reduces opportunities for abuse, child pregnancy, STIs and HIV infection.

Introduction to WISER

Global data shows that educated girls transform the health, economic development, governance, food security, and climate resiliency of their communities and countries. Maternal and infant mortality is reduced as is gender-based violence. Educated girls drive increases in GDP. Yet poor, rural girls are often missing from education, causing their communities to stay poor, sick, vulnerable to climate change, and lacking female representation. WISER partners with rural communities to produce the highest academic and health outcomes for the hardest to reach girls, empowering them to drive community change.

The Challenge in Kenya and Migori County

In Migori County only 8% of girls complete secondary school and 70% become child brides. 80% of girls experience gender-based violence and the area has the highest maternal mortality rate. HIV infection is 400% higher in girls than male peers, and girls don't know their sexual, reproductive, health, and human rights. Women are missing from political and legal systems.

Extraordinary Success: Our model is based on research and designed for impact.

By targeting the factors proven to improve girls' education and health and we have a documented, 14-year history of success. Our students come from failing schools and over 30% are orphans. Most are the first in their family to attend secondary school. Yet our girls become nationally competitive for universities.

Health

92% reduction in pregnancies.
99% reduction of child marriage.
100% voluntary HIV testing.
75% reduction in HIV infections.
7,000 people with access to clean water.
43,000 students with sexual and reproductive health education.
250,000 school days saved with menstrual hygiene management.
Education in sustainable agriculture.

Education and Community

99% graduation rate.
100% passing national exit exams.
90% attending tertiary education.
3X the national rate for scholarships.
Engineering and STEM clubs.
60% of alumni pursuing STEM.
Alumni network of girls from a rural area.
Cultural change in the valuation of girls.
Girls trained in democracy.
100% of students registered to vote.